



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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### *Praise & Patter – May 2023*

Life is full of unexpected crises that turn our world upside down and challenge our faith in God. We experience health problems, financial issues, problems at work, broken relationships, and the death of loved ones. We see things happening in our nation and world such as natural disasters, poverty, political dysfunction, and violence. In the midst of these things, we might be tempted to ask questions like: Is God reliable? Is God faithful?

We are not the first generation of Christians to wrestle with these questions, and we will not be the last. The answer can be found in the Word of God recorded in the scriptures. All we have to do is look back in history to see that God was there and loved and provided for His people. He was reliable and faithful to them and is still reliable and faithful for us today.

The Word of God is our guide and our hope. The Word reveals God's character and teaches us how to live. Here are a few passages that reveal God's faithfulness:

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. *Psalms 36:5*  
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

*Psalms 119:90*

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

What does it mean to be faithful? It means to be reliable and unchangeable. We believe that there is only one true God. All other gods are false gods. God is faithful, reliable, trustworthy, unchanging, unwavering, constant, and steadfast. God is always the same in good times and in bad times. God is omniscient – all knowing. He knows the past, present, and future. God is omnipotent – all powerful to do all things. God is omnipresent – present everywhere. There is no place you can go without God being there. Because God is steadfast and unchanging, we can trust he is with us now, loving, providing, and walking with us every step of the way.

There are many people who believe we can live any way we want to live. Or, that God only pays attention to "big sins" like murder. Others believe that God is somewhere out there or up there. "If I need Him, I will call on Him." Still others get into situations based upon their own choices, and expect God to bail them out.

The truth is that we change things, but God doesn't change. Faithfulness means that God can be depended upon to do what He says He will do, but not always the things we want Him to do. We can trust that every time we kneel before God in prayer, we don't have to worry about God changing His mind about us. He loves each of us deeply. God wants to give us grace, wisdom, mercy, and peace. The greatest example of God's unconditional love for us comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

When I am tempted to question the faithfulness of God, I read the Bible. And, I also find comfort in the words of the familiar hymn: "Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not. As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be. Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me."

Is God reliable? Yes! Is God faithful? Yes! I pray that all people may come to know it is true. "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." *Lamentations 3:22-23*

*Pastor Lee*

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at 9:00 am EACH SUNDAY!**

**Livestream** [www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](http://www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org) [www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown)

**Telephone** 978-990-5000, Access Code: 811703#

**Tithes and Offerings**

God and Father of us all, we praise you for the gift of life and all things. We are thankful that you provide for us financially, you provide for us spiritually, and you provide for us in so many other ways. We cannot begin to list the ways you bless us. We know you don't need anything material from us, but you desire our reverence. And so, we give you our tithes and offerings, and trust you to use them in ways that fulfill your purpose and mission in the world. Amen.

THANK YOU for your faithful and generous giving, which helps us to share the good news of Jesus. Please visit our website [www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](http://www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org) and click GIVE to learn about electronic giving options. You can also mail your offerings to the church or drop them off during office hours, which are 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

March Receipts \$ 21,827.52 March Expenses \$ 20,793.02

**Noisy Offering** is collected on the second Sunday of each month. Our Noisy Offering for May will go to REACH Emergency Fund.

**Second Mile** offering for May will go to Vacation Bible School.

**Thanks to your generosity** we donated \$395.00 to REACH of Washington County.

**Our prayers are with** the family of **Jeffrey Doanberger** who died on March 19.

**Prayer Ministry**

Remember these brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily prayers:

- May 7 Karen Luther | Meghan Luther | Alexis Jenkins | William Luther III | Jackie Lyles | Courtney, Alex, Jack and Haze Maguire | Heather McCleaf | Ronald and Dru McNamee | Kristen McNamee | Dan and Charlotte Miller | David Miller
- May 14 Terry Miller | Janet Moats | Anneliese Moats | Mary Moats | Robert, Jeanna, Kaiden, and Kendyl Moats
- May 21 Bill and Judy Morningstar | Todd Morningstar | Ted, Marianne, Joshua, Heather, Aaron, Ryan, Megan, Trey, and Devin Morningstar Jr. | Keldra Morningstar and Zachary Morningstar
- May 28 Christie Mose | Charles Mowen | James Mowen | Barbara Mumma | Christopher Mumma | Deborah Myers | William and Mary Myers

**Newsletter News** deadline for the June newsletter is NOON May 16, so we can publish it by the end of May.

**Night Out** will be held on Tuesday, May 16 at Olive Garden at 6:00 pm. Come and have a relaxing, casual dinner and fellowship with your fellow disciples. Remember, all men and women of the congregation (and your friends) are invited to participate.

**Service in the Funkstown Park- Save the date!** Our annual service in the park will be held on Sunday June 18. This will be a communion service at 10:00, please note this is a time change due to the picnic immediately following the service. The service and picnic will be held at pavilion #4 at the Funkstown Park. This pavilion is accessed off of Beaver Creek Road, on Robert Kline Way. The pavilion is at the top of the hill on the right. There are restrooms and handicapped parking there. The service will be held on the lawn but seating is available on the pavilion for those who wish. Everyone is asked to bring a chair and a covered dish to share. Fried chicken, drinks, and all paper products will be furnished. In the event of rain we will meet in the church's mission center. Please join us for this special day, and invite your family and your friends too.

**HARC Hike for Hunger & Hope, June 10, 2023** (Challenge Hike May 13). The HARC Hike for Hunger & Hope is HARC's biggest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds will benefit HARC programs, with a significant portion going to **Micah's Backpack**, which provides nutritious food to hungry children every weekend of the school year in Washington County. Learn more at <https://harccoalition.org/hike/> or pick up a registration form on the bulletin board outside the office.

**HARC Hike Volunteers Wanted** to help on the day of the main HARC Hike event on June 10 at Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center. We need people to help with set-up, serving and clean-up for the lunch celebration; someone to direct parking; someone able to drive a church bus to help with transportation; and a strong, nimble person to load water, Gatorade and supplies for our hospitality teams in the early morning. If interested, contact Kathy at [director@harccoalition.org](mailto:director@harccoalition.org) or 301-842-4272.

**May Birthday**

1	Ann-Dee Nichels Emmett Kable	13	Peggy Hebb Judy Morningstar*	21	Steve Blash Kali Myers
4	Richard Ginn	15	William Davis	25	Anneliese Moats
6	Amy Renner Mark Renner	16	James White*	26	Anneke Tingle
7	Helen Troxell* Wendy Vasquez	19	Whitney Breakall Alexis Jenkins Brock Doyle Doris Doub*	28	Fred Baker
9	Adam Collins			29	Joshua Dieterich
				31	Jill Ritter *=80 years and over

**May Anniversaries**

2	Steve & Debbie Reichard	13	Ben & Whitney Breakall	24	Sam & Michelle Sarvey
3	Ray & Marlene Barger	15	Ron & Dru McNamee Steve & Michele Blash	28	Guy & Janice Greene
8	Robert & Jenna Moats				

**Sign up Charts** for 2023 Altar Flowers Eternal light and Communion Elements are posted on the bulletin board. Altar Flowers are \$60.00 for both vases or \$30.00 for one (2024 \$60.00 per week). Please indicate if you are purchasing one. The Eternal Light is \$10.00 per week and Communion Elements are \$10.00 per week (2024 \$20.00 per week for Light and Elements).

**2023 Offering Envelopes are Here.** You may pick them up on the table in Fellowship Hall.

**Up Coming Events**

May 2,9,16,23,30

May 4,11,18,25

May 9

May 14

May 16

May 28

Bible Study, 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study, 6:30 pm

Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Noisy Offering

Newsletter Deadline, Noon

Night Out, 6:00 pm at Olive Garden

Youth Group, 6:00 pm

**Church Office Hours**

**Church Secretary**

**Pastor**

**Director of Music**

**Council President**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Carol Ann Rossman | [office@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](mailto:office@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org)

Lee Brumback | [prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](mailto:prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org)

Cara Price

Lennie Frey